

Tom Sizmur

**Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland Postgraduate Student
Travel Bursary Report**

I wish to thank the Mineralogical Society for the travel bursary that enabled me to travel to Seville, Spain and attend the 20th Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) Europe Annual Meeting. This large conference is attended by delegates from academia, business and government with a wide range of topics concerning environmental chemistry of organic and inorganic toxicants in sediment, soil water and the atmosphere. It was an ideal setting to meet and network with professionals from all over the world to the benefit of both my current research project and my career going forward.

I gave a presentation on the first day of the conference entitled 'Metals in earthworm casts are more mobile but earthworm mucus reduces mobility' which attracted a lot of attention perhaps due to the bold statement made in the title. The presentation went well and several delegates approached me either immediately after the presentation or later during the week to either discuss aspects of my current research that may link or compliment their own or to tell me about something similar that they have in the pipeline.

The rest of the week was spent in a more relaxing frame of mind as I skipped from room to room watching presentations on subjects that interested me and spent time during the poster sessions to find out what other students from various European countries were doing. Of particular help to me was speaking to a number of students using techniques unknown to me that may be useful in my research and possible collaborations as a result of these conversations may happen in the future.

During the evenings I was able to take time out to enjoy the sun go down in one of the many bars and restaurants that Seville has to offer and enjoying the local tapas. I include below a picture of me standing outside the conference venue.

